



# Missouri Folklore Society Newsletter

P.O. Box 1757, Columbia MO 65202

<https://missourifolkloresociety.org/>

**Volume 48, Nos. 1-2**

**Spring 2024**

## **Society's Annual Meeting Earlier in 2024!**

Through the gracious generosity of Dr. Mark Livengood, Director of the Mid-Continent Public Library's Story Center, the Missouri Folklore Society will gather at the beautiful Woodneath Library Center (images and description of the magnificent facility in pages following). Available dates compel us to meet earlier than usual, but on the same Thursday-Saturday schedule — please mark your calendars for October 17 through 19.

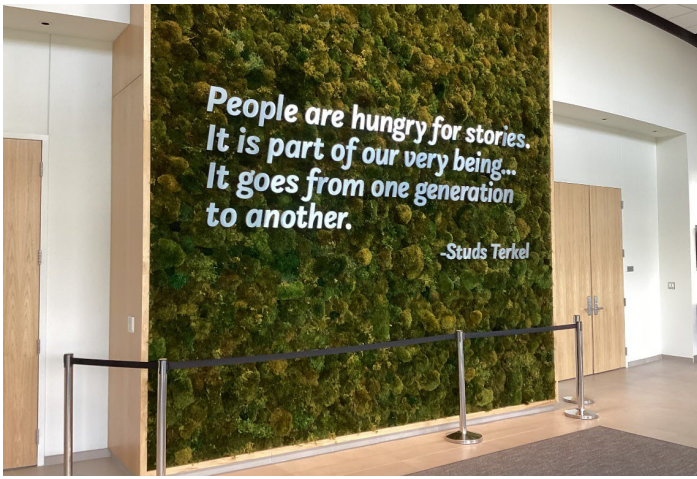
Conference organizers Lyn Wolz, Susan Bryson and Ginger Hendrickson are currently planning events, activities and speakers, but now is the time for you to be thinking about your own contribution — as always, the society welcomes scholars and tradition-bearers, amateurs and enthusiasts, with a special welcome for young folk and students. We have a special fondness for and focus on the lore of our fair state, but we are open to presentations and sharing of folklore, folkways in the broadest sense, as our 1906 mission statement declared — from anywhere and any time. There will be scholarly and creative work, performances and demonstrations, panels and discussions, sharing and remembering and storytelling — as well there should be, in this special venue.

Teachers are especially asked to encourage their students to think about sharing their own work: we sorely need to raise up a new generation of folklorists. All student presenters have their registration fee waived and receive a year's free membership.



## Woodneath Library Center

- 8900 NE Flintlock Road, Kansas City, MO 64157 — (816) 883-4793
- 35,000 square feet branch library opened in 2013 (to right in photograph)
- Woodneath historic home (center), originally built in 1856 and re-opened in November 2021 as The Story Center after award-winning adaptive reuse project. The Woodneath homestead is on the National Register of Historic Places.
- Auditorium (left) opened in August 2022
- 309 parking spaces (8 handicap, 9 low emissions)
- 0.9 mile walking trail features 17 interpretive signs describing cultural and natural history of the Library's 33 acres
- Approximately 1.5 miles from Interstate 35, 4 miles from downtown Liberty, and 15 miles from downtown Kansas City. There are many lodging and dining options within a two-mile radius of Woodneath.
- Friendly Bean coffee shop inside the branch library. We often contract with them to provide coffee and cookies for our programs.
- Websites: o Mid-Continent Public Library: <https://www.mymcpl.org>
- The Story Center: <https://www.mymcpl.org/story-center>
- Woodneath Library Center: <https://www.mymcpl.org/locations/woodneath-library-center>



## MINUTES

Missouri Folklore Society Meeting,

Saturday April 13, 2024

11 am CDT Via zoom: 94900734531

Present: Lyn Wolz, Susan Bryson, Ginger Hendrickson, Dave Para, Evelyn Rogers, Brett Rogers, John Fisher, Carol Fisher, Scott White, Neal Delmonico, Betsy Delmonico, Erika Gerety, Rachel Gholson,

Call to order Susan Bryson 11:02

### Introductions

Approval of minutes from November meeting: Moved, seconded, approved.

Treasurer's report: Dave Para Low expenses for Boonville meeting, and increase in membership income. The CD rolled over at a poor rate, so we will take the penalty to withdraw and re-invest. We're in the black for the year. Typo in bottom line corrected, report adopted.

Remarks on the Boonville meeting, and The concept of smaller-scale meetings seems to work. So much hard work, against so many obstacles .... Many thanks to Brett and Evelyn Rogers!--

Plans for 2024 at the Story Center – Lyn Wolz, Susan Bryson, Ginger Hendrickson

The venue is charming; Ginger has lined up a hotel with a special rate (2 miles away). 15 rooms set aside. The Sleep Inn and Suites of Liberty would like to get the rooms booked ASAP. October 17-19 No theme has yet been set. Possibilities include "KC City of Corruption," and "KC: Gateway to the Square States" "All Roads Lead to KC and Multiple Trails Lead Out." They're open to suggestions. Working on cool speakers, and caterers are lined up. At least one Italian, at least one BBQ, a mocktail party with Bess Truman's recipe for punch.

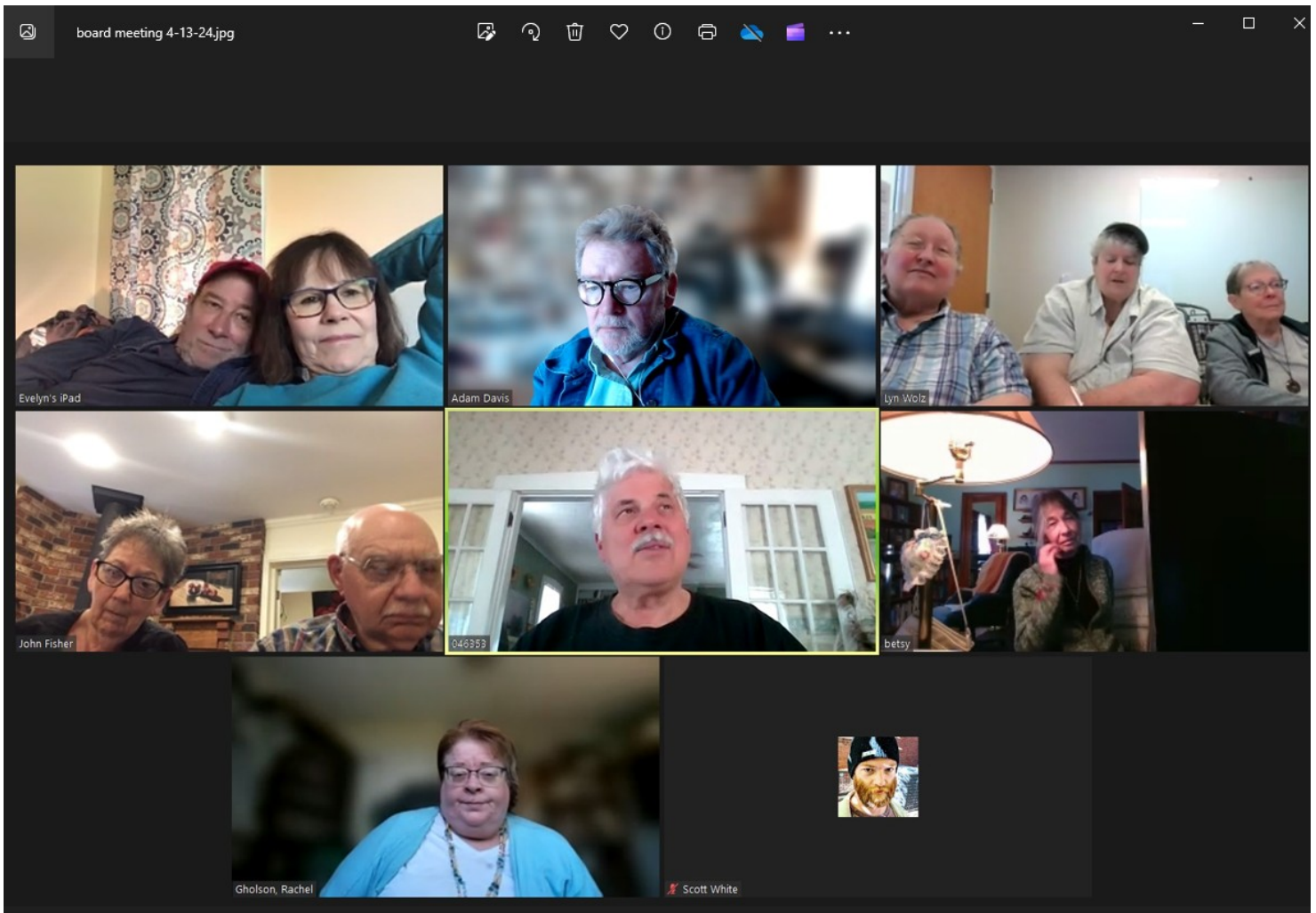
Ginger is working on a speaker focused on westward migration and diverse communities. The author of the new book on Vance Randolph is a possibility.

We need lots of interesting and diverse presentations from the membership. Dave suggested a presentation on Seth Davey, who sang "Come Day Go Day/Whisky on a Sunday" while working dancing dolls.

Publications report: journals, newsletter, website, social media

Hathi Trust has 1-24 and 26. We have digital versions of all others. That is, scanning the missing journals is unnecessary. If Hathi is unable to finish out the series and continue archiving, it seems reasonable to solicit the interest of the State Historical Society of Missouri. Would Hathi allow SHSM to capture the existing scanned files?

Judy is willing to do the auction again, but it may be getting a bit much for future years. We should probably discuss this at the November meeting. Brett suggested a silent auction as a possibility. Rachel says she might be able to do 2026.



Items from the floor:

Big Muddy attendance was a bit lower this year. But a fine time was had, with diverse acts. Including a mariachi band.

Dave asks whether we want to continue the PO Box. Dave checks it when he's in town. It's \$190/year. We get memberships. It's currently in Columbia; it could be moved to Boonville.

We'd need a year to sunset the mailbox. We could set up a paypal account, or venmo ... Dave will explore options.

We all wished Evelyn a happy birthday.

Adjournment: 11:55

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Davis

# THE MISSOURI FOLKLORE SOCIETY

*P. O. Box 1757  
Columbia, MO 65205-1757  
(phone 660.882.7821)*

## Officers and Board of Directors

### President:

Lyn Wolz, Susan Bryson

### Vice President:

Ginger Hendrickson

### Executive Secretary:

Adam Davis

### Treasurer:

Dave Para

### Corresponding Secretary:

### Archivist:

#### 2023-2026

Gary Buxton, Doniphan, MO

George Caudle, Bonne Terre

Jan Caudle, Bonne Terre

Jim Caudle, Bonne Terre

Gladys Coggs, Kansas City

Judy Domeny, Rogersville

Gene Edson, Richmond

John Fisher, Kennett

Carol Fisher, Kennett

Betty Henderson, Monett

Antonio F. Holland, Kansas City

Donna Jurich, Tucson AZ

Gordon McCann, Springfield

Mettazee Morris, St. Louis

Lynn Morrow, Jefferson City

Frank Nickell, Cape Girardeau

Annette Richter, Moorhead, MN

Brett Rogers, Boonville

Paul Schwartzkopf, Quincy IL

Jim Vandergiff, Tucson AZ

Lyn Wolz, Lenexa KS

#### 2021-2024

Jeanette Ash, Kimberling City

Ray Brassieur, Lafayette LA

Sharon Brock, Columbia

Adam Davis, Kirksville

Andrea Davis, Kirksville

Betsy Delmonico, Kirksville

Neil Delmonico, Kirksville

Liz Faries, Terre du Lac

Annie Fuller, St. Louis

Rachel Gholson, Springfield

Debra Greene, Jefferson City

Sam Griffin, Columbia

Holly Hobbs, Columbia

Roger Jungmeyer, Jefferson City

Leon Keens, Kansas City

Austin Krueger, St. Louis

Julie McCollum, New Haven

Meredith Rau, St. Charles

Lu Anne Roth, Columbia

Loretta Washington, Florissant

Hester Wise, Rolla

#### 2022-2025

Anthony Bodnar, Troy, IL

Jean Brand, Columbia

Susan Bryson, Lenexa, KS

Ken Burch, Sikeston

Janelle Burch, Sikeston

Norma Cantu, Kansas City

Don Carlson, Leavenworth KS

Mim Carlson, Leavenworth KS

Howard W. Marshall, Fulton

Patrick McGlasson, Mississippi

Margot McMillen, Fulton

Dave Para, Albuquerque, N.M.

Barbara Price, Kirksville

Bruce Scovill, Jefferson City

John Shewmaker, Columbia

Richard Shewmaker, Columbia

Debra Thompson, Harrisburg

Scott White, Belleville, IL

Julie Henigan, Springfield

Joe Slama

Evelyn Rogers, Boonville

# Headlining at Big Muddy, April 4-5, 2024

## Dave Para and Erika Gerety

<https://bartonpara.com/bp/index.php/davepara/>

Since 2019, Dave Para and Erika Gerety have found a loving life together. They realize they share much more in common than both losing a spouse and a good friend in the same two people, Cathy Barton and Gary Libman, who hopefully are laughing and playing banjo together in heaven to the surprise of its other inhabitants. Their relationship began 12 years ago with music, camping and jamming at the festival in Winfield, Kan., a central focus for fun and friendship. That focus was allusive for months after Cathy passed, but Dave joined Erika's dance band, Cheap Shots, and Erika became part of Dave's band Snorty Horse, so Dave has found ways to keep music a vital part of his life. Erika is an engaging singer often featured in the bands she has been in, and singing duets is dear and deep in Dave's heart, especially singing with the one you love.



Their repertoire and styles differ, but not too much, just enough to make for an enjoyable process of discovery. Erika's voice really sparkles with the bluesy side of things while Dave has spent a lot of time singing old-time songs, and both have echoes of the folk song revival in their heads. They continue to learn more about music and each other.

The question arose recently of why Dave and Erika haven't done a set at the festival, and the answer is they haven't worked up an act. But they both have performed enough to get some songs into shape for an opening set at the festival to honor the request. It is a happy task.



Gareth Pearson



Ellie Grace



Mariachi Flor de Missouri



photo by renee cornue studio

The Stillhouse Junkies



Ladyfingers and a Thing 'r Too





“Late Fall,”

by Mona Stevenson

Rayce Kendrick, the Executive Director of the Friends of Historic Boonville, put together a wonderful YouTube playlist consisting of 35 videos of previous performances made by the musicians that are performing for us at the 2024 Big Muddy Folk Festival. You can access the playlist from the Big Muddy website:

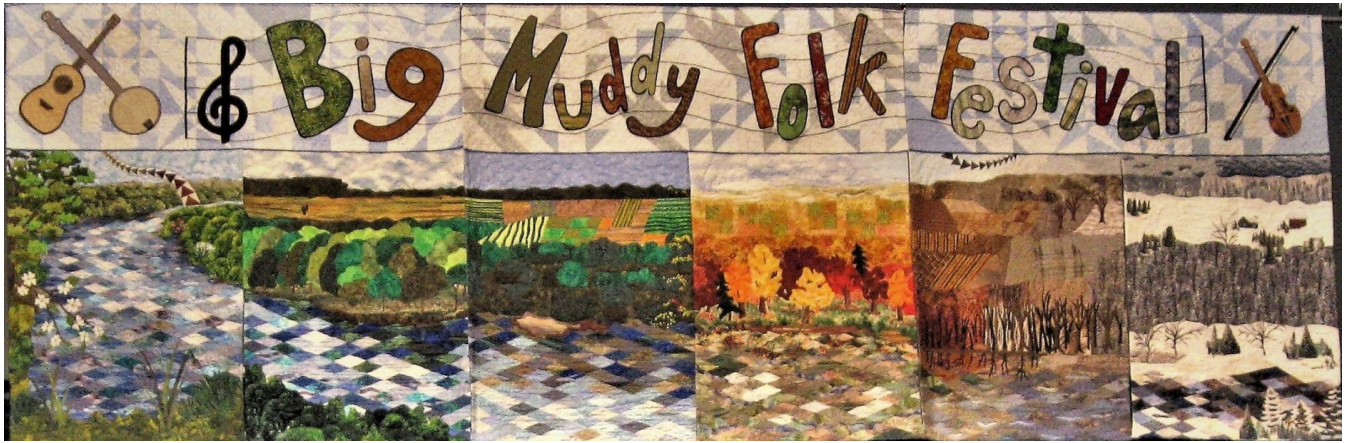


Hudspeth and Taylor



Notorious

<https://www.bigmuddy.org/big/2024/index.html>



## Ellie Grace Home Again

It was very special to have **Ellie Grace** with us last year as co-emcee and performer, and we are happy for her return this year. She sort of grew up around this festival and having her with us is like a family celebration.

Ellie has been directing a community chorus in her hometown of Kansas City and continues to teach music and dance. And raising a two-year old can fill out the rest of any day. Ellie got to know and work with Edén Macadam-Somer while she studied for her Master of Fine Arts in dance and choreography at Smith College. I think the two are scheming to collaborate this year.

## *In Memoriam*

**Paul Fotsch** died in his sleep last July at the age of 74 to the shock of us all since he was the image of good health and had played for the farmers' market the previous day like always. Paul had graced the festival over the years with his Grace family band, the Discovery String Band and as a solo. Whether or not performing on stage he was a friendly fixture and festival stalwart. It will be hard not to see and hear him with us. And we're going to have to tell all those corny jokes ourselves.



### *Friends of Historic Boonville*

P.O. Box 1776  
 614 E. Morgan  
 Boonville MO 65233  
 660-882-7977  
 fohboonville@gmail.com  
<http://bigmuddy.org>  
<http://www.friendsofhistoricboonvillemo.org>

*These notices excerpted from **Soundings**. To read the complete newsletter:*  
<https://www.bigmuddy.org/big/2024/soundings.pdf>

We're always open to Notes and Queries about folklife and folklore. Send us yours!

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**From:** Anastasia Robinson <[anamarierobin@gmail.com](mailto:anamarierobin@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 24, 2024 2:35 PM  
**To:** Davis, Adam <[adavis@truman.edu](mailto:adavis@truman.edu)>  
**Subject:** Missouri Fairy-lore?

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or on clicking links from unknown senders.**  
Hello!

I was writing to know if anyone from the Missouri Folklore Society is aware of any fairy related folklore in Missouri. Anything relating to fairies, elves, gnomes, goblins, trolls, little people (as is common among indigenous people), I'd love to know.

In the Fairy Census, an ongoing academic study that collects anonymous first-hand fairy sightings, there are a total of 9 reports (so far) that took place in Missouri.

I'd love to know if there are any traditions or documented individual experiences regarding fairies in Missouri.

Thank you for your time!

Anastasia

## Announcing the Forthcoming Publication of *Men of No Reputation*

Jul 19, 2023 | Arkansas and the Region, Forthcoming Books, Ozarks, Ozarks Studies, regional history



The University of Arkansas Press is proud to announce the forthcoming publication of *Men of No Reputation: Robert Boatright, the Buckfoot Gang, and the Fleecing of Middle America* by Kimberly Harper.

*Men of No Reputation: Robert Boatright, the Buckfoot Gang, and the Fleecing of Middle America* is the first account to explore the life of Robert Boatright, one of the Midwest's most gifted—but forgotten—confidence men. Boatright's story provides a rare window into the secret world of Missouri's criminal past, one that influenced the methods of confidence men across the country. Boatright took the preexisting big store confidence scheme and perfected it. With the assistance of a talented coterie of confederates known as the Buckfoot Gang, he fleeced the gentry of the Midwest on fixed athletic contests in the turn-of-the-century Ozarks, leading one scholar to call him “the dean of modern confidence men.” Working in concert with a local bank and an influential Democratic boss, Boatright seemed untouchable. A series of missteps, however, led to a string of court cases across the country that brought his criminal enterprise to an end. And yet, the con continued. Boatright's successor John C. Mabray and his gang, many of whom had been in the Buckfoot Gang, preyed upon victims across North America in one of the largest Midwestern criminal syndicates in history before they were brought to heel. Like the works of Sinclair Lewis, Boatright's story exposes a rift in the wholesome Midwestern stereotype and furthers our understanding of nineteenth- and twentieth-century American society.

A seventh-generation Ozarker, Kimberly Harper earned a master's degree in history from the University of Arkansas. She received the Missouri Humanities Council's Distinguished Achievement in Literature (Non-Fiction) Award for her book *White Man's Heaven: The Lynching and Expulsion of Blacks in the Southern Ozarks, 1894-1909*.

*Men of No Reputation* will be published in February 2024. It is part of the *Ozarks Studies* series, edited by Brooks Blevins. The *Ozarks Studies* series acknowledges the awakening of a scholarly Ozarks studies movement—one that crosses disciplinary boundaries as it approaches regional study from a variety of vantage points—and positions the University of Arkansas Press as the publisher at the forefront of the movement. As the only university press headquartered within the Ozarks region and as a press with a solid background in the publication of books on the region—Rafferty's *The Ozarks, Land and Life*, Morrow's *Shepherd of the Hills Country*, Harper's *White Man's Heaven*, Sizemore's *Ozark Vernacular Houses*, and many more—the University of Arkansas Press is ideally suited for the first series that will level a scholarly eye on the Ozarks and Ozarkers.

The *Missouri Folklore Society Newsletter* will continue to appear semi-annually, emailed to members and posted at the website:

<https://missourifolkloresociety.org/>

Many of the functions it served over many years are now handled more rapidly and continuously via the Missouri Folklore Society page on Facebook — please “like” and “follow”; if you’d like to join the editing team, contact [adavis@truman.edu](mailto:adavis@truman.edu)

